





MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Council Members

CC: Marc A. Ott, City Manager
Michael McDonald, Deputy City Manager
Sue Edwards, Assistant City Manager
Anthony Snipes, Acting Assistant City Manager
Robert D. Goode, Assistant City Manager
Bert Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager
Larry Weis, Austin Energy General Manager

From: Lucia Athens, Chief Sustainability Officer 
Rob Spillar, Director, Austin Transportation Department 

Date: October 17, 2012

Subject: **City Council Agenda Item 47: Clean Air Force Funding**

This memorandum provides additional background to the proposed City Council Agenda Item for October 18th, 2012. Item #47 is to *“Authorize award, negotiation, and execution of a 12-month Professional Service Agreement for calendar year 2013 with CLEAN AIR FORCE, for a one-year membership in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 and to provide funding for the City’s involvement in clean air programs for 2013, for the Austin Transportation Department in an amount not to exceed \$80,000, for a total agreement not to exceed \$90,000.”*

Clean air is a complex regional issue which is impacted most significantly by mobile (transportation) sources, but also by point sources such as power plants, non-road sources such as construction equipment, and area sources such as small facilities and homes. The City’s Clean Air Programs have been in existence since 1991, and are currently located organizationally within the Austin Transportation Department. At various times in the past, the program has been located within Austin Energy’s Climate Protection Program and the Office of Sustainability. Air quality funding for the 2012-2013 Fiscal year was approved as a part of the Austin Energy budget.

The **Clean Air Force** has received annual payments of \$90,000 for the past 10 years. The current Request for Council Approval would continue the funding at the same total level as previous years. The delineation of the \$80,000, as separate from the \$10,000 membership fee, is in order to establish a contract component with clear deliverables and metrics. We have heard from the **Clean Air Force** that the timing of payment to their organization is an issue of current concern. If Council approves this item, Transportation and FSD Purchasing staff will

immediately proceed with negotiations to bring the City and the **Clean Air Force** to agreement, with the intention being that the contract may be signed within less than a week from Council approval. This assumes that all parties can readily agree on the contract terms. Once the contract is signed, the total agreement amount of \$90,000 can be paid in a single payment, to be processed immediately upon receipt of an invoice from the **Clean Air Force**.

On a related but separate note, staff is currently preparing a response to City Council Resolution No. 20120524-077, which directed staff to evaluate and provide recommendations for expansion of the City's current air quality program and work with stakeholder groups to analyze best practices for enforcement, education, planning, analysis, and technical assistance mechanisms, and report on cost impacts of expansion recommendations. A full report with staff analysis and recommendations will be brought forward to Mayor and Council in November. Staff is working diligently to complete the report and expedite delivery. The recommendations contained within the report will be focused on planning for Air Quality program expansion in the 2013-2014 budget year. Council will be have the opportunity to provide direction to staff related to the report recommendations regarding any future changes or additions to the City's Clean Air programs, funding levels, or program allocations, including any proposed changes impacting the City's future contractual or membership relationships with the **Clean Air Force**.

In summary, the funding for the **Clean Air Force** will continue, as discussed in the budget review, for this year and then Council will have an opportunity to review a comprehensive evaluation of the City's air quality program in the next few months to determine if this funding allocation should change or remain the same in future years.